

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. - 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A method for identifying a lead compound for drug development for a disease associated with abnormal cell growth that decreases Rheb activity, comprising:

contacting a first aliquot of cells expressing a Rheb protein with a candidate compound under suitable conditions and for a period of time sufficient to affect a reduction in Rheb activity;

measuring ~~a parameter of~~ cell size in the first aliquot of cells;

measuring the ~~parameter~~ cell size in a second aliquot of control cells; and

comparing the ~~measured parameters of~~ cell size in the first and second aliquots of cells, wherein a ~~change~~ decrease in the ~~parameter~~ cell size in the first aliquot of cells as compared to the second aliquot of cells is associated with a ~~change~~ reduction in Rheb activity.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

utilizing the candidate compound as a lead compound for drug development for the disease associated with abnormal cell growth.

27. (Cancelled) The method of claim 25, wherein the candidate compound inhibits Rheb activity.

28. (Cancelled) The method of claim 25, wherein the Rheb protein is human or Drosophila Rheb protein.

29. (Cancelled) The method of claim 25, wherein the measured parameter is cell size.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein the parameter is glucose uptake or utilization.

31. (Currently amended) A method for screening a library of candidate compounds to identify a lead compound that decreases Rheb activity for drug development for a disease associated with abnormal cell growth, comprising:

contacting the candidate compounds with cells overexpressing a Rheb protein under suitable conditions and for a period of time sufficient to affect a reduction in Rheb activity  
measuring a ~~parameter of~~ reduction in the size of the contacted cells for a change in phenotype associated with Rheb antagonist activity; and

determining whether a candidate compound inhibits Rheb activity to identify a Rheb antagonist.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising:  
utilizing the Rheb antagonist as a lead compound for drug development for the disease associated with abnormal cell growth.

33. (Cancelled) The method of claim 31, wherein the Rheb protein is human or Drosophila Rheb protein.

34. (Cancelled) The method of claim 31, wherein the measured parameter is cell size.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the parameter is glucose uptake or utilization.

36 (Withdrawn) A non-human, transgenic animal over-expressing Rheb protein, wherein the animal has increased cell or organ size as compared with an animal not over-expressing Rheb protein.

37 - 42. (Cancelled)